

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:445

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002

ACTION PLAN FOR CULTIVABLE LAND

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any time bound action-plan to bring the cultivable land of the country under irrigation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of irrigated land in the country where cultivation is going on; and
- (d) the increase in percentage of the irrigated land achieved in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Government of India has assessed the Ultimate Irrigation Potential in the country as 139.9 million hectare. The responsibility of investigation, planning, execution and maintenance of all types of irrigation projects/works primarily rests with the state governments since irrigation is a State subject. Also, these irrigation projects/works are funded by the state governments from their plan funds and according to their own priorities. Creation of irrigation potential is a continuous process for which the target is set in the State's Five-Year Plans according to allocation of funds by the States. At the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan, (i.e., 1997-98), 54.6 million hectare was provided with irrigation against total sown area of 142.02 million hectare which works out to 38.2 percent. The creation of additional irrigation potential of about 10.2 million hectares is expected during the Ninth Plan (1997-2002).